Hold on to Joy

for six pianos
by David John Roche
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Hold on to Joy was particularly inspired by my work as a private music teacher providing lessons to people who could afford to pay for tuition after state funding cut removed the provision from schools. The impact of a musical education is obvious and proven. It is appalling that people are denied this on the basis of their sociological status and I feel some guilt for providing private tuition and, in this way, supporting this inequality. The music of Hold on to Joy reflects my conflicting feelings of upset and joy: unsettled, vicious sections act as simultaneous representations of my anger and powerlessness but the dancing, groovy refrain is reflective of the happiness I find in providing people with access to something so valuable, regardless of the dubious ethics. As Western politics becomes more tempestuous we need to remind ourselves of the outcomes our political choices can lead to, remember that people are shaped by their environment from the moment they are born, and consider the fact that our actions can contribute to improvements in the lives of others. We need to hold on to the good we find in our lives.

Notes to performers

8va and 8vb markings refer specifically to the stave they are placed above (one hand only).

Accidentals apply to the whole measure.

Written, with gratitude, for Grand Band as part of the inaugural Peter Reynolds Composer Studio at the Vale of Glamorgan Festival.

Duration: 5 minutes
Hold on to Joy
written for Grand Band

\( \frac{\text{b}}{\text{f}} \text{ Andante; metronomic, ritmico} \)

Piano 1

\( \text{p delicato} \)

una corda

Piano 2

\( \text{pp cantabile} \)

\( \approx \)

Piano 3

\( \text{p delicato} \)

una corda

Piano 4

\( \text{pp cantabile} \)

\( \approx \)

Piano 5

\( \text{p delicato} \)

una corda

Piano 6

\( \text{pp cantabile} \)

\( \approx \)
Pno. 1

Pno. 2

Pno. 3

Pno. 4

Pno. 5

Pno. 6
Brutal, intense

Pno. 1

Pno. 2

Pno. 3

Pno. 4

Pno. 5

Pno. 6

fff hammered out

fff hammered out

fff hammered out
Ritmico; groovy, metronomic

Pno. 1

Pno. 2

Pno. 3

Pno. 4

Pno. 5

Pno. 6
Suddenly withdrawn, poco a poco intenso